

WILLIAM WEBSTER.

MESSAGE

FROM THE

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

IN RESPONSE TO

A resolution of the House of Representatives, adopted on July 1, 1876, in relation to the sequestration by the government of Great Britain of the property of an American citizen in New Zealand.

JULY 13, 1876.—Referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed.

To the House of Representatives :

I transmit herewith, in answer to a resolution of the House of Representatives, of the 1st ultimo, a report from the Secretary of State upon the subject.

U. S. GRANT.

WASHINGTON, July 13, 1876.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, July 13, 1876.

The Secretary of State has the honor to report, that upon the 2d day of June he received a copy of a resolution of the House of Representatives in the following words :

“Resolved, That the Secretary of State be directed, if not inconsistent with the public service, to furnish to the House copies of the correspondence between the State Department and the government of Great Britain, in relation to the sequestration of the lands and property in New Zealand claimed by William Webster, an American citizen, by purchase of the native chiefs of that country by Webster before its cession to and occupation by the British government.”

No correspondence has taken place between the Department of State and the government of Great Britain in relation to the sequestration of the lands and property in New Zealand claimed by William Webster, an American citizen. In the years 1841 to 1844 certain correspondence was had between the legation in London and the foreign office of Great

Britain in reference to the general question of land-titles held in New Zealand by American citizens, but no correspondence has taken place in regard to the particular claim of Mr. Webster.

Respectfully submitted.

HAMILTON FISH.

To the PRESIDENT.

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